

DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION

14215 RIVER ROAD
P.O. BOX 530
WALNUT GROVE, CA 95690
Phone (916) 776-2290
FAX (916) 776-2293
E-Mail: dpc@citlink.net Home Page: www.delta.ca.gov

**Agenda Item #11**

November 5, 1999

To: Delta Protection Commission
From: Lori Clamurro, Delta Protection Commission Staff
Subject: CALFED Stage 1A Actions

The CALFED Program is currently nearing the end of Phase II, its programmatic planning phase. Phase II will culminate in the release of a Final Programmatic EIR/EIS in April 2000 and the certification of a Record of Decision in June 2000. The Program would then move into Phase III, the implementation phase. Phase III has been broken up into Stages, which will allow for periodic assessment of the Program in terms of its success and balance, and provide the opportunity to alter the direction and focus of the Program as necessary. Stage 1 of implementation is expected to last seven years; proposed actions in this stage have been compiled with extensive input from stakeholders and agency staff.

To achieve regional and programmatic balance and facilitate development of environmental documentation for Stage 1 improvements, Stage 1 actions were grouped into bundles. In the hopes of getting implementation of these actions started as soon as the Record of Decision is certified, CALFED staff has been focusing on identifying actions to be implemented during the first two years of Stage 1 (Stage 1A Actions). Because of previous work committed to the evaluation of South Delta improvements (Interim South Delta Plan, 1996, DWR), and its geographic importance to addressing multiple aspects of the CALFED Program as a whole, the South Delta region has become a priority area for improvements during Stage 1A.

This memo summarizes information on the South Delta bundle of actions; the information was compiled from materials provided to Delta Protection Commission staff by CALFED staff. Table 1 identifies the various actions to be implemented as part of the South Delta bundle, and Figure 1 provides a timeline for completion of South Delta improvements. Location maps are also attached. Please note that for planning purposes, the CALFED "South Delta" area includes portions of the Legal Delta south of Hwy 12 and adjacent to the San Joaquin River (Contra Costa and San Joaquin Counties).

Lower San Joaquin River and South Delta Bundle

Among the seven bundles proposed by CALFED is a bundle of actions for the lower San Joaquin River and South Delta region to address long-standing concerns with respect to water quality, fisheries, wildlife habitat, and water supply availability.

In order to expedite Program implementation it is necessary to initiate the project-specific planning process well ahead of the completion of Phase II of the program (Programmatic environmental document). Appropriate agency staffing, budgeting, and other resources need to be identified and allocated, and formal environmental documentation needs to be initiated for the highest priority actions. The purpose of this document is to advance this early implementation planning process for the lower San Joaquin River and South Delta region by suggesting an approach to organizing actions into projects and defining their geographic and topical scope, to propose implementation responsibilities for the various CALFED agencies and stakeholder groups, to identify funding requirements, and to lay out proposed implementation schedules.

Actions for the lower San Joaquin River and south Delta region bundle are grouped into 12 distinct projects, ranging from feasibility studies to full EIR/EIS as shown in Table 1. An overview of the implementation schedule for the entire bundle is provided by Figure 1.

The proposed grouping of actions into discrete projects reflect consideration of project purposes, the expertise and statutory mandates of the various CALFED and local agencies, and the need to create manageable project teams. There is no one correct way to organize this work; it is anticipated that the scope and structure of the proposed projects will be modified as detailed planning gets underway in close coordination with the affected agencies and stakeholders.

Linkages

CALFED has recognized the great importance of maintaining close coordination and linkages between various actions to assure balance, efficiency, and harmony among various interest groups. By proposing to implement Program actions as a series of discrete projects, rather than a single comprehensive project, CALFED risks losing the coordination important to overall success. At the same time, it is clear from a practical standpoint that project level planning must be broken into manageable units in order to move forward. Therefore, while striking this balance between very large integrated projects and smaller, discrete projects, CALFED must give a great deal of attention to providing the appropriate linkages between individual projects.

Some of the required linkages are already in place as part of the interim Program structure. Policy Group meetings, BDAC meetings, and a large number of stakeholder/agency meetings are useful forums for communication and coordination on implementation issues. The current budget processes, including federal, state, and local levels, provide further opportunities for coordination and negotiation to achieve a reasonable balance between competing priorities. In addition, existing laws and regulations provide a framework for agency decision that can provide strong linkages expressed in terms of permit decisions and other actions.

However, additional linkage and assurance mechanisms need to be carefully considered on a case by case basis to assure all agencies and stakeholders that the appropriate balance and coordination will be achieved. Potential additional linkage mechanisms under consideration include contracts, legislation (including bond measures), interagency agreements, and agency directives. CALFED is committed to exploring and implementing the appropriate linkage mechanisms to assure Program integration as implementation proceeds.

Table 1. Proposed Bundling of Early Actions for Project Management Purposes

Note: The project-level, site-specific environmental documentation and feasibility evaluations have been broken down into 12 manageable, coherent project packages in order to move forward efficiently. The individual projects need to be coordinated to various degrees to assure overall adherence to CALFED goals, and linked appropriately to provide agencies and stakeholders with sufficient assurance that actions are properly prioritized, yet reasonably balanced.

EIR/EIS: South Delta Improvements Program (1996 Public Draft by DWR and USBR)

- New SWP Clifton Court Forebay screened intake – *Construct fish screens and fish salvage facilities in an incremental, modular approach, most likely at a location on Old River on the southeast corner of Byron Tract.*
- Permanent barriers at head of Old River, Old River at Tracy, and Middle River – *Phase out all temporary barrier installations as permanent barriers, dredging, and extension of agricultural diversions are completed. Grant Line Canal (GLC) temporary barrier will be phased out after GLC dredging and extension of intakes is completed.*
- Dredging – *Limit scour velocities induced by export pumping, facilitate adequate water supply for local agricultural intakes, and address local navigation obstructions. Future maintenance dredging will be pursued as required.*
- Extend and screen agricultural intakes – *Consolidate diversions where feasible and beneficial on a voluntary basis. Diversion structures that are modified will be screened; screening facilities will be installed and maintained at no cost to the diverters.*
- Permit interim 8,500 cfs and ultimately 10,300 cfs export capacity, with option for full use of Joint Point of Diversion (JPOD) – *Obtain permits to use full State Water Project capacity of 10,300 cfs, consistent with all operational constraints for water supply and environmental benefits (interim operations at 8,500 cfs), and JPOD (JPOD means the Central Valley Project could pump from Clifton Court Forebay).*
- Barrier Operations – *Form a Barrier Operations Coordination Team, consisting of USFWS, NMFS, DFG, DWR, USBR, and South Delta Water Agency representatives – Supervise operation of new barriers.*
- Monitoring – *Effects on fish, stages, circulation, and water quality, as well as operations of the new screened intake, channel dredging, and modifications of agricultural intakes.*
- Mitigation – *Actions to be identified; mitigation for adverse impacts is required under CEQA and NEPA.*
- Settlement agreement with South Delta Water Agency

Required Resources: DWR staff already in place; planning effort costs about \$2 million/year.

EA/IS: Tracy Test Fish Facility (500 cfs) (Underway by USBR and Interagency Groups)

- Construct test facility to develop best available technology approach to Delta fish screening, salvage, and return for project intakes – *Design, construction, and evaluation of test fish facility located at the existing Tracy Fish Facility.*

Required Resources: Completion of design and environmental documentation is \$5.7 million. Construction of facility and 3 years of testing expected to cost \$120 million.

EIR/EIS: Ecosystem and Floodplain Restoration Associated with the South Delta Improvements Program

- Aquatic and terrestrial habitat restoration actions – *Improve ecosystem structure and function in the Delta and reduce the risk of flooding in the lower San Joaquin River and South Delta channels.*
- Floodplain restoration and management actions – *Improve ecosystem structure and function in the Delta and reduce the risk of flooding in the lower San Joaquin River and South Delta channels.*
- Selected levee and channel modification actions – *Improve ecosystem structure and function in the Delta and reduce the risk of flooding in the lower San Joaquin River and South Delta channels.*
- Agricultural and wetland diversion screening – *Selected diversions in the South and Central Delta and lower San Joaquin River would be screened, based on priorities established by analysis of entrainment data collected early in the project planning stage.*

Required Resources: Some project staff identified; project support from other agencies and consultants to be determined. Planning costs for 3 years likely to approach \$8 million.

EIR/EIS: Stockton Dissolved Oxygen Solution Alternatives

- Municipal wastewater storage and treatment options – *Source control and water treatment actions for lower San Joaquin River drainage to reduce pollutant loads. Specific actions to be determined.*
- Non-point source reduction measures – *Source control and water treatment actions for lower San Joaquin River drainage to reduce pollutant loads. Specific actions to be determined.*

Required Resources: Special studies and modeling costs amount to \$1 million/year for FY 2000 and FY 2001. Opportunities for cost sharing with local, State, and private entities.

EIR/EIS: Improved Source Water Quality for Rock Slough Intake, Contra Costa Water District

- Veale Tract discharge relocation or treatment – *Relocation or treatment to reduce impacts of drainage on urban water quality.*
- RD 800 discharge relocation or treatment – *Relocation or treatment to reduce impacts of drainage on urban water quality.*

Required Resources: Detailed monitoring is being carried out at several locations along Rock Slough and Contra Costa Canal. Mobilization, staff, and laboratory costs for sampling and summary of findings will cost \$1 million; relocation may cost \$4 million.

EIR/EIS: Agricultural Drainage Management in the San Joaquin Basin

- On-farm drainage management measures – *Implement evaporation ponds, drainage treatment and re-use facilities, and other drainage management measures, including pilot programs to improve on-farm selenium management.*
- Irrigation improvement measures – *Implement drip irrigation, subsurface irrigation, and recycling systems to reduce discharge and movement of saline water.*
- Release of accumulated salts during high flows – *Possible construction of regional and on-farm drainage retention facilities for storage of saline water between release opportunities.*

Required Resources: \$500,000/year for FY 2000 and FY 2001.

Technical Study: Assessment of Sources and Magnitudes of Loadings of Constituents of Concern for Drinking Water

- Identify sources, relative magnitudes, and potential measures for reducing loadings – *Total and dissolved organic carbon, pathogens, nutrients, salinity, turbidity, and bromide.*

Required Resources: Monitoring studies cost \$500,000 for FY 2000, and \$1 million/year for several years afterward. These studies will be coordinated through the CALFED Delta Drinking Water Quality Council.

Feasibility Study: Recirculation as a Tool for Meeting Lower San Joaquin River Flow and Water Quality Objectives

- Recirculation of SWP, CVP exports

Required Resources: Not yet identified.

EIR/EIS: Vernalis Adaptive Management Plan

- Secure/provide flows to meet salinity objectives, VAMP, Endangered Species Act, and 1995 Water Quality Control Plan objectives – *Manage spring pulse flows and exports.*

Required Resources: Not yet identified.

IS: Temporary Barriers Program (Completed by DWR and Corps. May need to be renewed.)

- Extend existing temporary barriers program as necessary while permanent facilities are evaluated and implemented

Required Resources: Not yet identified.

EIR: Joint Point of Diversion for CVP, SWP (Public Draft EIR on Water Quality Control Plan circulated by State Water Resources Control Board)

- Sharing of existing export capacities – *Allow SWP and CVP to share existing permitted pumping capacities to optimize operational flexibility.*

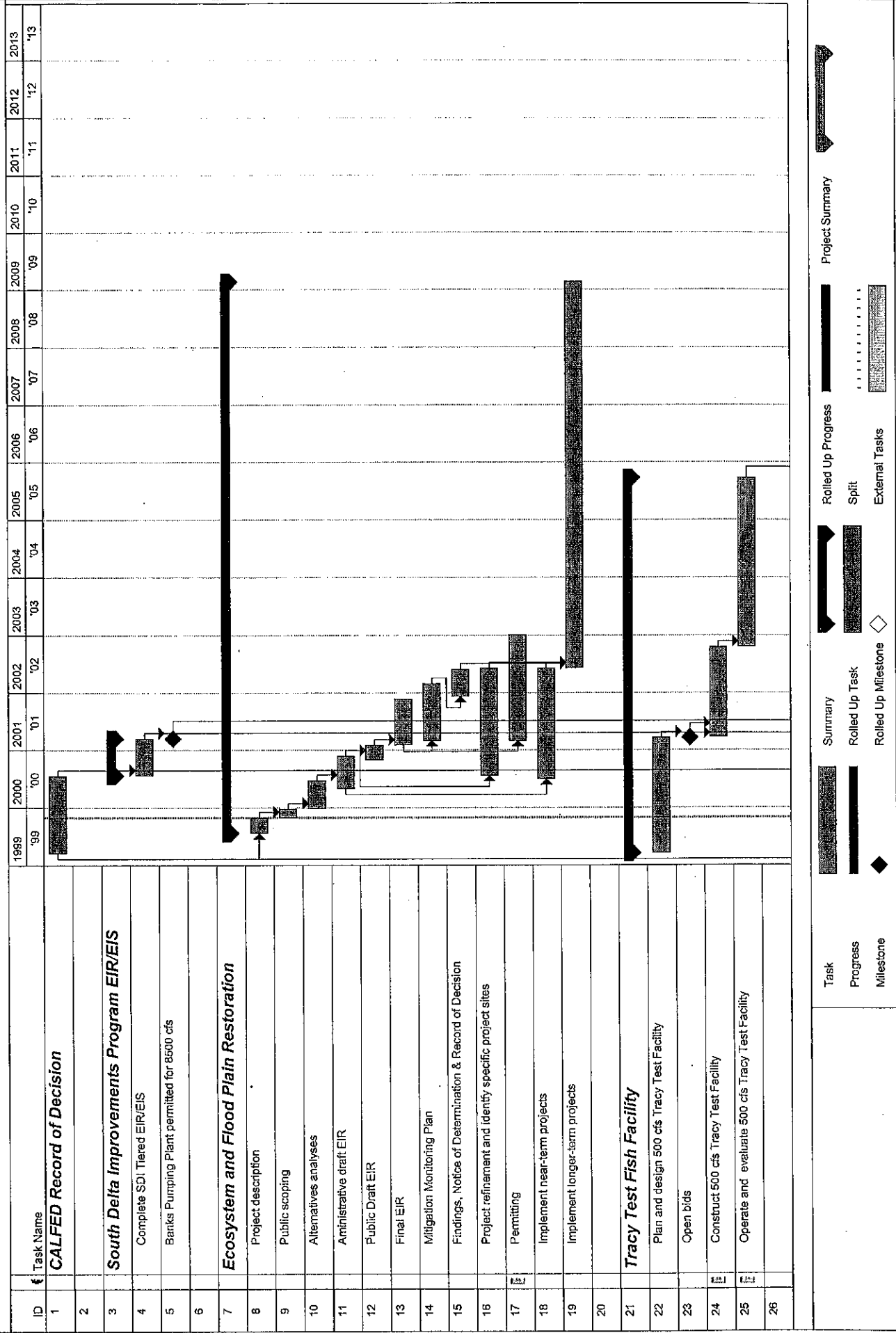
Required Resources: Minimal at this time; State Water Resources Control Board hearing on this issue will follow final adoption of the Water Quality Control Plan, at which time more intensive effort will be required.

EIR/EIS: CVP Tracy Pumping Plant Screened Intake Upgrade/Relocation

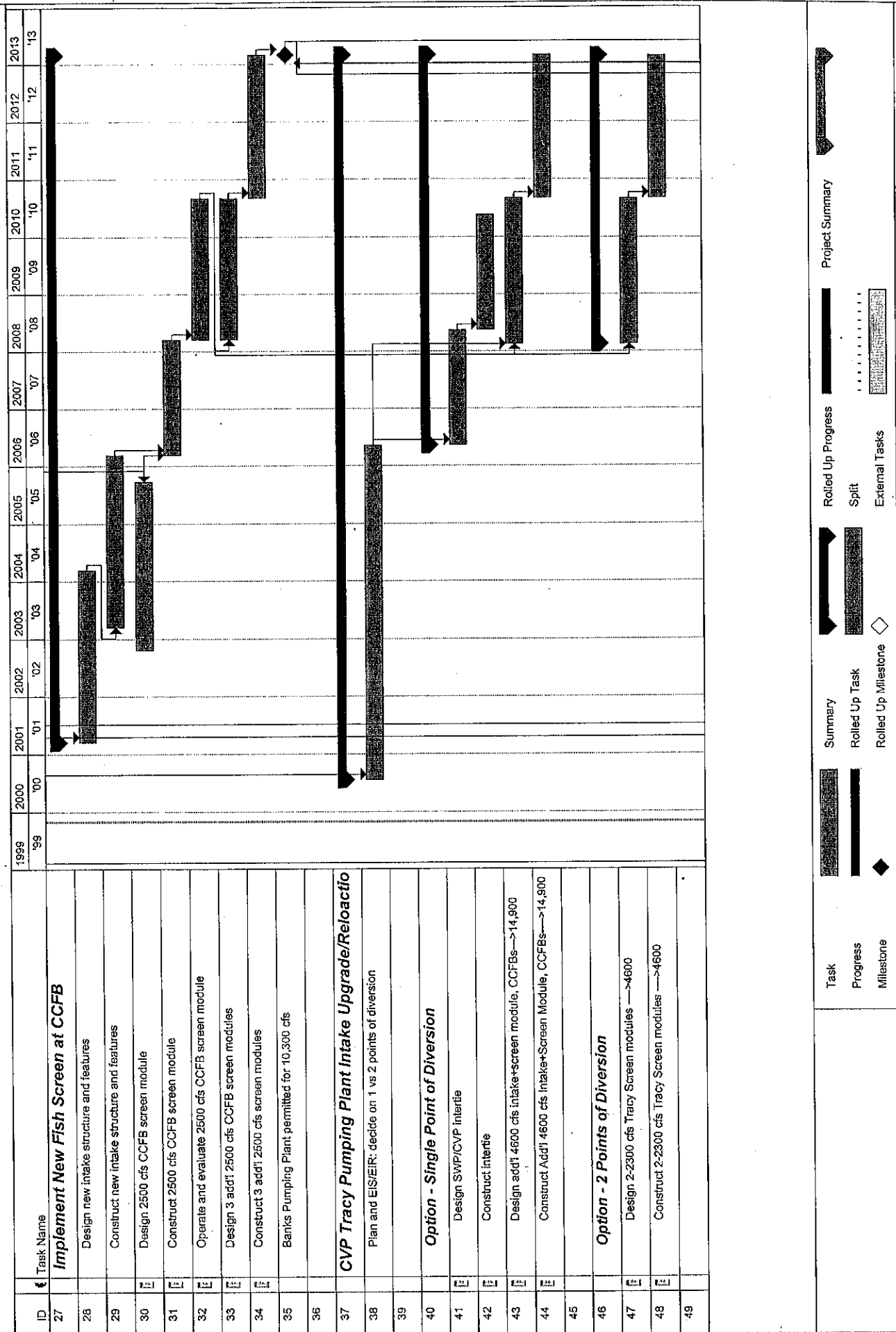
- Evaluate whether the Central Valley Project should retain a separate intake, or consolidate with the State Water Project facilities.

Required Resources: Not yet identified.

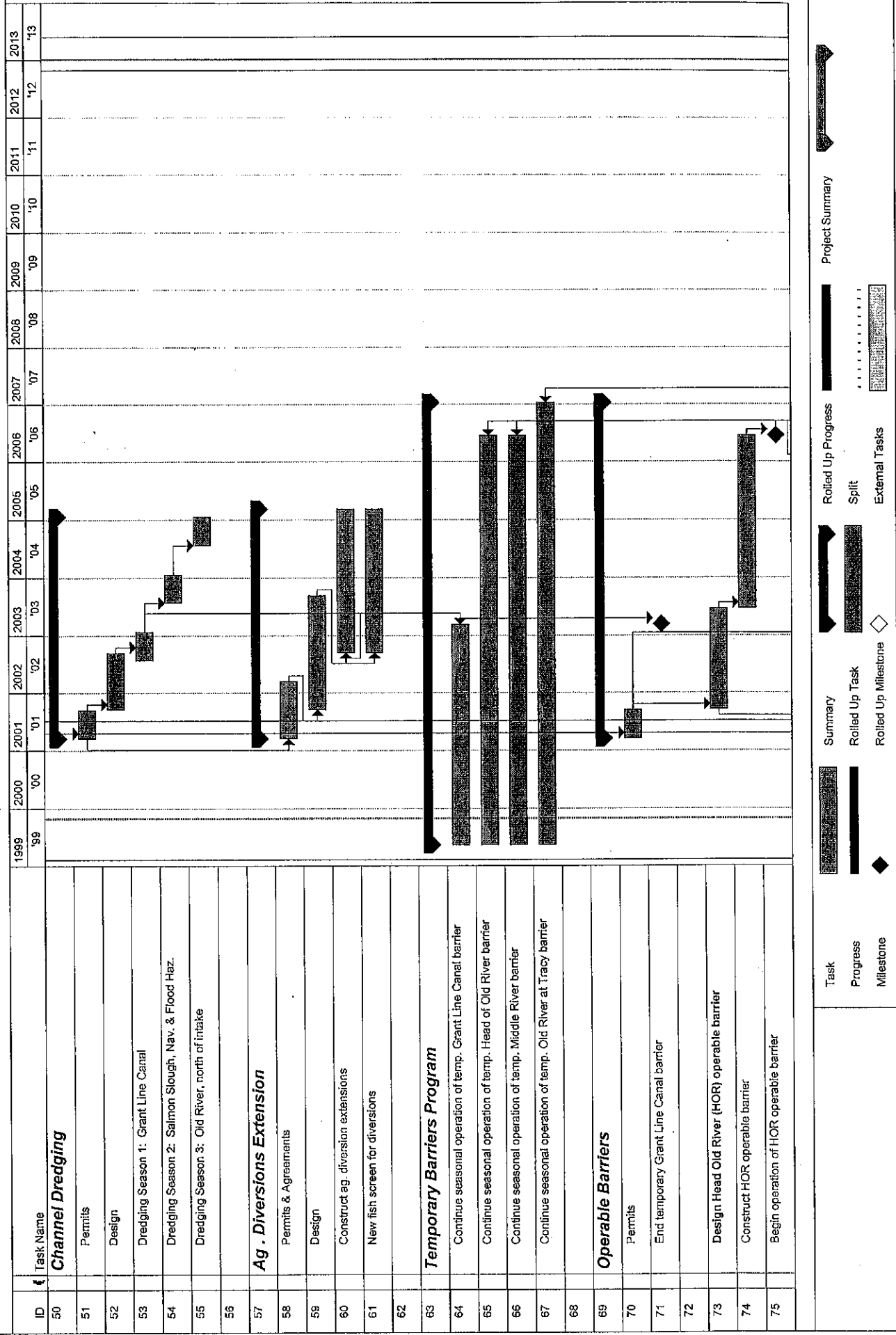
**Figure 1. Draft Implementation Schedule for
Stage 1 Actions, Lower San Joaquin River and South Delta Region**



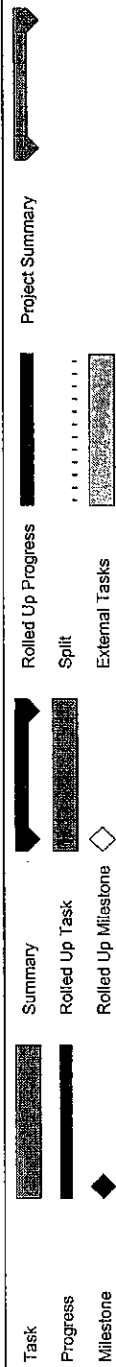
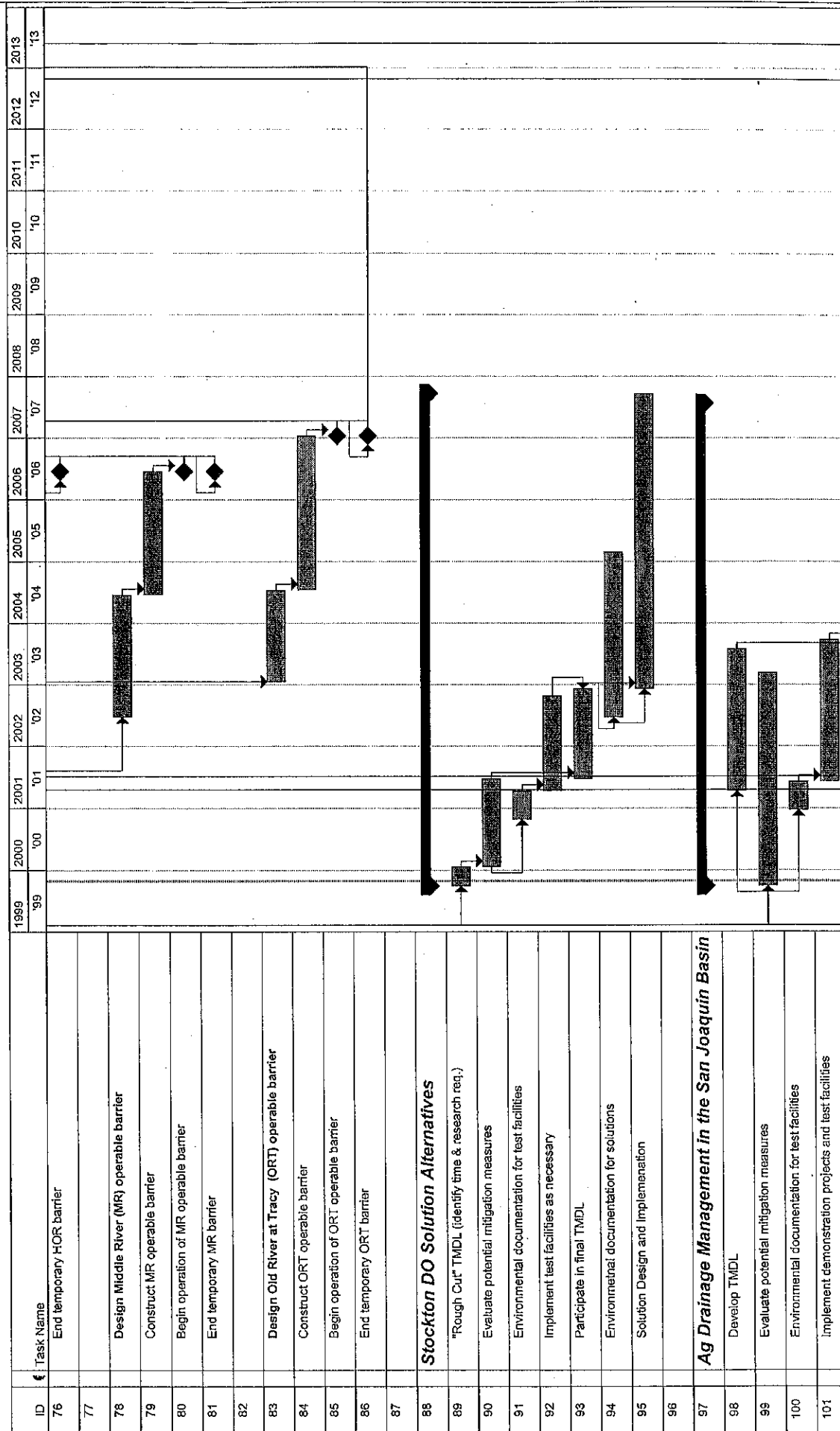
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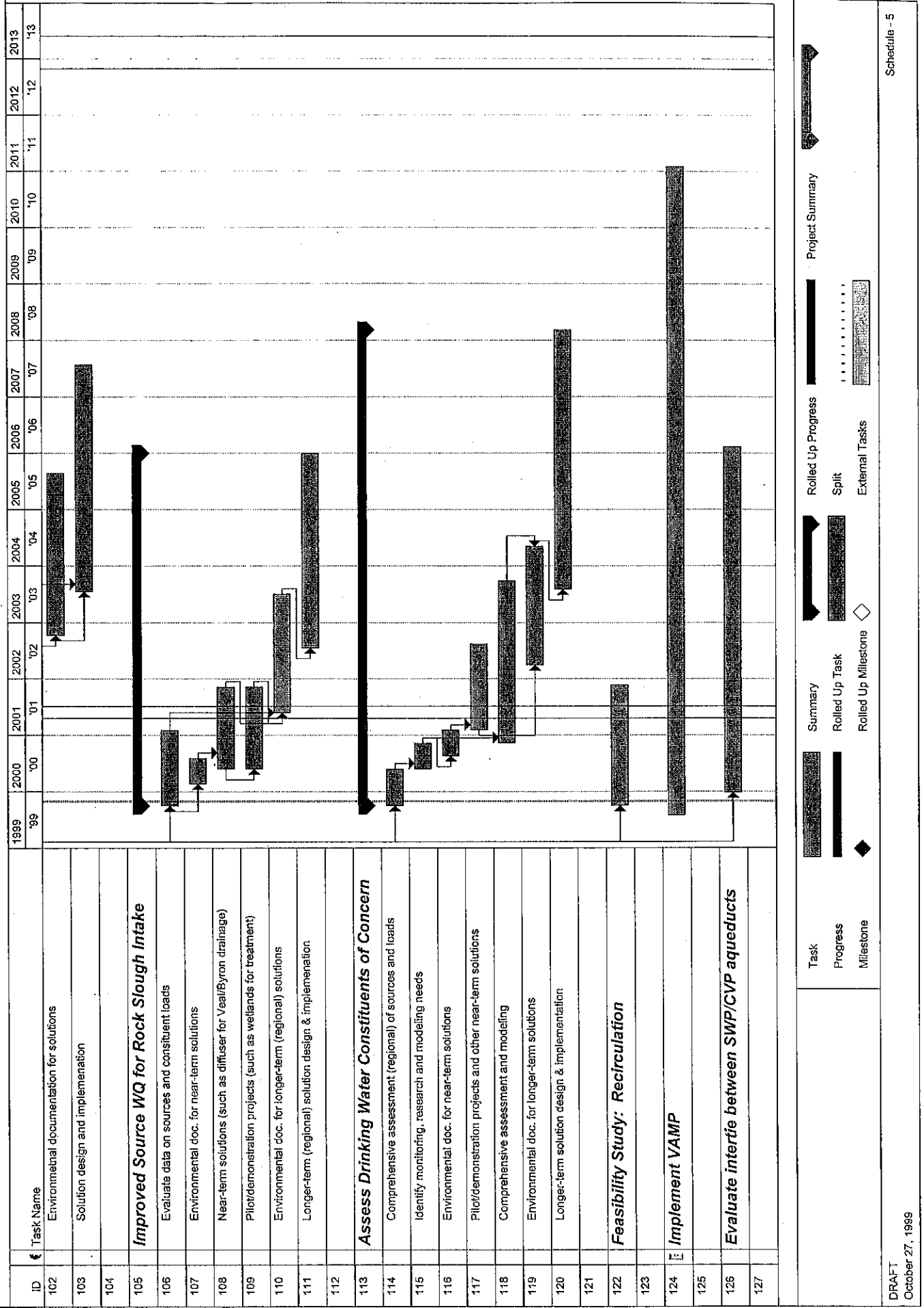
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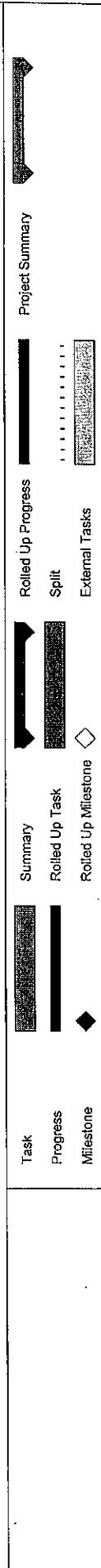
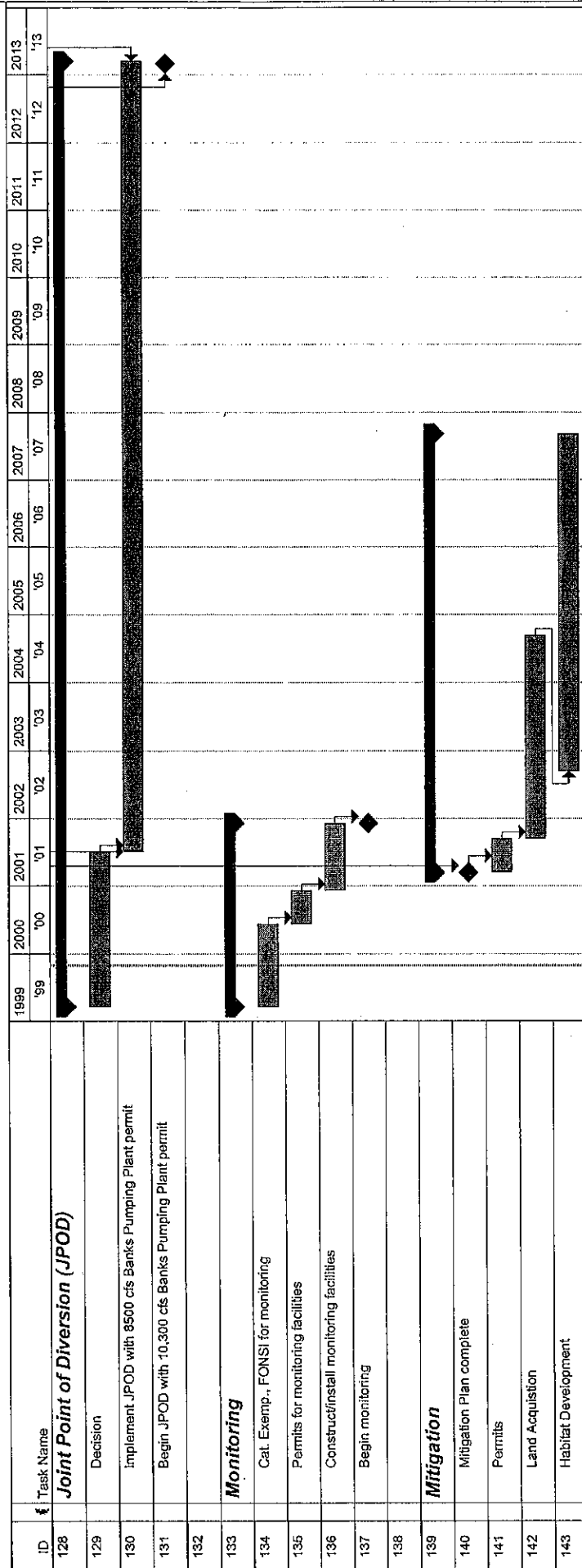
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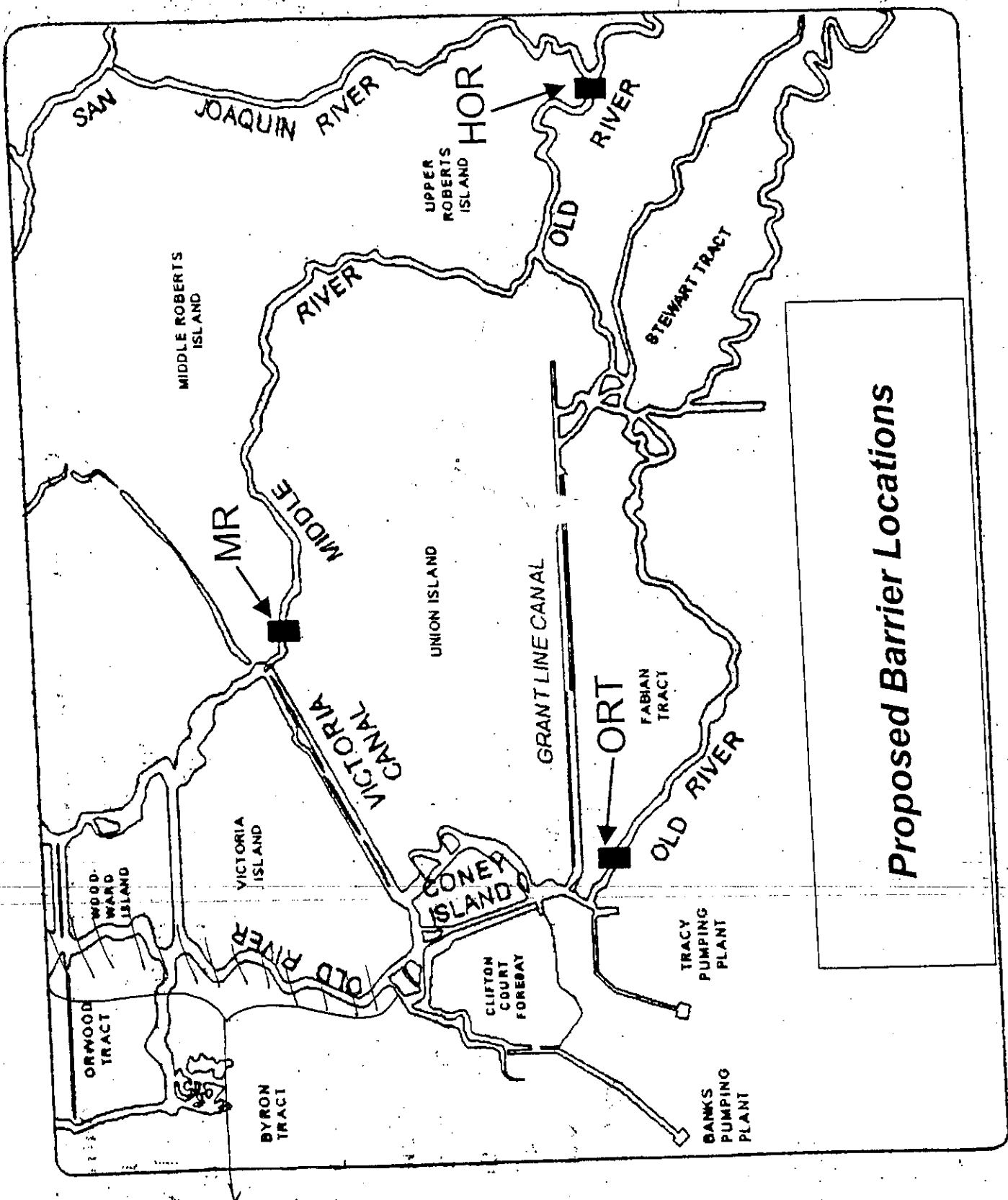
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proposed
dredging in
old River



Proposed Barrier Locations

